

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1073

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the musical contributions of Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, Reggie Torian, and the singing group, The Impressions.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those noteworthy Tennesseans who, through their extraordinary musical talents, have earned the universal respect of their peers and fans; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions to the field of popular music; and

WHEREAS, Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, and Reggie Torian, members of the popular music singing group, The Impressions, are three such outstanding musicians who have become a permanent part of American music; and

WHEREAS, The Impressions began their celebrated career in Chicago, Illinois, when original members Curtis Mayfield and Jerry Butler joined a group called the Roosters, which was founded by Chattanooga natives, Sam Gooden, Richard Brooks, and Arthur Brooks. By the time their breakout hit, "For Your Precious Love," was released in 1958, the group had changed its name to The Impressions; and

WHEREAS, the early Impressions possessed their own unique sound, and their repertoire included a mixture of doo-wop, gospel, soul, and R&B; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Butler left the group in 1960 to pursue a solo career and Chattanooga native Fred Cash stepped in as his more than able replacement; Arthur Brooks and Richard Brooks followed, leaving the group by 1962; and

WHEREAS, with the inspiring vocals of their newest member, Fred Cash, the multi-talented Curtis Mayfield writing the majority of the songs and singing lead vocals, and the exceptional singing talent of Sam Gooden, The Impressions released a large number of Top 40

hit songs throughout the 1960s, including "Gypsy Woman," "It's All Right," "Keep on Pushing," and the seminal "People Get Ready". Heavily influenced by gospel music, these songs served as inspirational anthems for the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, the music of Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, and The Impressions quickly became an integral part of American popular music and gave rise to the socially conscious messages featured in the music of African American artists during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, songs such as, *We're a Winner*, *I Loved and Lost*, *Choice of Colors*, *Woman's Got Soul*, *Check Out Your Mind*, *Keep on Pushing*, and *People Get Ready* are still a source of inspiration for the mass of African American people; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, founding member, Curtis Mayfield, parted from the group to produce his own sound and current member, Reggie Torian, joined the group in 1973; from 1974-1975, The Impressions enjoyed three top five R&B singles with *Finally Got Myself Together (I'm a Changed Man)*, *Same Thing it Took*, and *Sooner or Later*; in 1976, the group changed record companies and had their final major hit single, *Loving Power*; and

WHEREAS, the members of the group released their final album in 1981, and in 1983, Jerry Butler, Curtis Mayfield, Sam Gooden, and Fred Cash reunited for a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour before disbanding; since then, The Impressions have periodically reunited in various formats, usually recreating the classic line-up of Curtis Mayfield, Sam Gooden, Fred Cash, and sometimes Jerry Butler, until Mr. Mayfield was seriously injured on stage during a performance and was rendered unable to play and sing; and

WHEREAS, the music industry duly noted and honored the significant contributions of this groundbreaking group in 1991, by inducting The Impressions, consisting of members Sam Gooden, Jerry Butler, Richard Brooks, Curtis Mayfield, Arthur Brooks, and Fred Cash, into the Rock and Roll Music Hall of Fame and later the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2003; and

WHEREAS, after numerous top forty R&B and pop hits, over twenty-seven albums, dozens of chart singles, countless records sold, and forty years later, The Impressions, currently comprised of Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, and Reggie Torian, are still entertaining audiences at many different venues throughout this great nation; and

WHEREAS, Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, and Reggie Torian epitomize the spirit and dedication that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, and Reggie Torian for their many worthwhile contributions as members of The Impressions, and commend them for their meritorious service as representatives of socially significant, yet highly entertaining, music in this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the numerous contributions of Fred Cash, Sam Gooden, and Reggie Torian of The Impressions to American popular music and culture, and commend them on the group's outstanding success and longevity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.